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1- 3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for reducing damage caused to a circular saw blade on a delimbing machine, comprising:

< a stationary saw head compartment of a delimbing machine, the saw head
< compartment having an access door that pivots about a vertical pivot axis between an
< open position swinging outwardly away from the saw head compartment and a closed
< position, the access door having an inside surface;

a circular saw blade rotatably supported within the saw head
compartment, the circular saw blade having a first face and a second face, the circular
< saw blade being vertically movable relative to the saw head compartment and the
< access door between a lowered cutting position and a raised retracted position in which
the saw blade is substantially retracted within the saw head compartment with only a
lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade extending below the
access door of the saw head compartment;

at least one contact member mounted to the inside surface of the access
< door of the saw head compartment, the at least one contact member protruding a pre-
< set distance from the inside surface of the access door in both the open position and
< the closed position, the at least one contact member being positioned immediately
adjacent to and spaced laterally from the first face of the circular saw blade and radially
< inwardly [from] at the lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade
when in a retracted position within the saw head compartment, such that lateral
movement of the lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade is
confined by the at least one contact member engaging a first face of the circular saw
blade along the lower circumferential peripheral edge.

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5. (CANCELED)

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein there is more than one contact member.

7. (CANCELED)